

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 EB-07 INT-05 /029 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:HBENGELSDORF;DR

APPROVED BY IO/CMD: WWWOODBURY

CEQ:BUSTERUD (SUBS)

WATER RESOURCES:COBB (SUBS)

IO/CMD:KAHN

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P 072255Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, ECE, UN, XG

SUBJECT: ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

REFERENCE: GENEVA 0459

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE BISHOP'S STAFFING PROBLEMS, WE WOULD URGE THAT HE PROMPTLY PREPARE OFFERED COVERED BRIEF PAPER DESIGNED TO GIVE GREATER FOCUS TO THE DISCUSSION ON WATER AND THAT THE ESSENCE OF CONTENTS BE CABLED WHEN AVAILABLE.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BISHOP HIMSELF PARTICIPATED IN INFORMAL CONSULTATION LAST OCTOBER THAT LEAD TO IDENTIFICATION OF WATER AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH BY SENIOR ADVISERS. WE ARE SLIGHTLY PUZZLED BY HIS REPORTED ATTITUDE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT SENIOR ADVISERS WILL BE INTRUDING IF THEY GET TOO FAR INTO DISCUSSING WHERE ECE MIGHT GO IN THIS AREA, PUTTING ASIDE ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTION OF WHERE LOCUS OF ANY FOLLOW-UP WORK SUGGESTED SHOULD BE PLACED IN ECE. IN OUR VIEW, IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS

TO OFFER COMMENTS ON ALL PROGRAM ASPECTS OF ECE, INCLUDING WATER RESOURCE ASPECTS THAT HAVE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONNOTATIONS, EVEN THOUGH ACTUAL WORK PROGRAM MAY BE RUN

BY OTHER COMMITTEES. TO THIS END, WE WOULD DEFINITELY EXPECT SENIOR ADVISERS TO NOT ONLY COMMENT ON PAPER ENV/R.26, BUT ALSO THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE WATER COMMITTEE AS SET FORTH IN REPORT OF ITS SIXTH PROGRAM SESSION (ECE/IO). OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO REVIEW PROGRAM FROM ENVIRONMENTAL STANDPOINT, TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY APPARENT GAPS OR NEW DIRECTIONS OBTAIN VIEWS OF ADVISERS ON PRIORITIES ETC.

3. MISSION, ACCORDINGLY, IS REQUESTED TO RELAY THESE THOUGHTS TO BISHOP WITH VIEW OF ASCERTAINING, IF POSSIBLE, MORE PRECISELY HOW HE INTENDS THE "DEBATE" ON THIS SUBJECT TO PROCEED AND, IF POSSIBLE, OBTAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF NATURE OF COMMENTS THAT HE HOPES TO OBTAIN FROM SENIOR ADVISERS. IN OUR VIEW, ADVISERS SHOULD BE ASKED TO (A) REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE EFFORTS THE ECE HAS UNDERWAY IN THIS FIELD, (B) REACT TO THE SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS THAT MAY BE GLEANED FROM ENV/R.26 AND (C) OFFER ANY VIEWS THEY MIGHT HAVE ON POSSIBLE ECE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN WATER CONFERENCE. REGARDING THE LATTER, IF BISHOP HAS NOT DONE SO ALREADY, WE WOULD URGE HIM TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACTS PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 24 MEETING WITH UN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, WITH VIEW OF ASCERTAINING WHAT ROLE THE ORGANIZERS OF CONFERENCE (V. BAUM) BELIEVE ECE CAN BEST PLAY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER, ENVIRONMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE028998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HBENGELSDORF:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750046-0415
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750260/aaaaccnk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 0459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
TAGS: SENV, XG, ECE, UN, (BISHOP)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006